

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 24 are pending in the application. Claims 1 - 4, 7 - 12, 15 - 20, 23 and 24 have been rejected. Claims 5, 6, 13, 14, 21 and 22 have been objected to. Claims 1, 6, 9, 14, 17, and 22 have been amended. Claims 4, 5, 12, 13, 20 and 21 have been cancelled. No new claims have been added.

The examiner has raised a plurality of objections to the claims. It is believed that the following discussion should address these objections. However, should this discussion not address these objections, the examiner is earnestly encouraged to telephone the undersigned to determine and identify any suggested claim amendments or any further discussion necessary to resolve these objections.

Regarding the objection to claim 23, claim 23 has been amended to depend from claim 17.

Regarding the question about the term "orphan" used in claims 3, 11 and 19, orphan is generally discussed at page 6, lines 12 - 22 of the specification. "Orphan fixes" are defined as any additional timing fixes that are not addressable via the optimizing operation. Accordingly, orphan timing violations are those violations that are fixed via orphan fixes.

Regarding the question for claims 5, 13 and 21 about the term "nominal number of fixes", the specification generally discusses nominal number of fixes at page 7, lines 7 - 18. The nominal number of fixes is defined as the median of all possible solutions. Additionally, the claims have been amended to more clearly set forth that the fixes are for addressing timing violations.

Regarding the objection to claims 5-6, 13-14 and 21-22 about defining what is to be selected in the approach, these claims have been amended to more clearly set forth that the approach is for addressing timing violations.

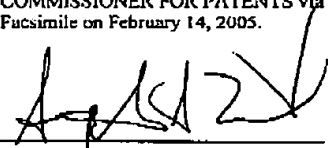
Appreciation is expressed for the indication of allowability of claims 5-6, 13-14 and 21-22. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 4 and 5 and is thus allowable.

Claims 2, 3, 7 and 8 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least this reason. Claim 6 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 1 and 4 and is thus allowable.

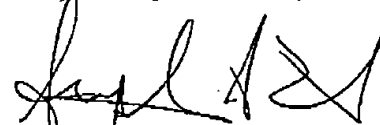
Claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 4 and 5 and is thus allowable. Claims 10, 11, 15 and 16 have been amended to depend from claim 13 and are allowable for at least this reason. Claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 9 and 12 and is thus allowable.

Claim 17 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 20 and 21 and is thus allowable. Claims 18, 19, 17 and 24 have been amended to depend from claim 17 and are allowable for at least this reason. Claim 22 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 17 and 20 and is thus allowable.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent to the COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS via the USPTO Central Facsimile on February 14, 2005.	
	2/14/05
Attorney for Applicant(s)	Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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